



## **2020 Legislation & Our Stance**

### **Item: Support** Reauthorizing & Fund VISIT FLORIDA

**Legislation:** SB 362 & HB 213

**Description:** VISIT FLORIDA is set to sunset if action isn't taken in the 2020 session to reauthorize. SB 362 & HB 213 reauthorizes VISIT FLORIDA for eight years. Governor requesting \$50 million.

**Current Status:** SB 362 passed Commerce & Tourism Committee. HB 213 no action.

### **Item: Support** Business Rent Tax Cut

**Legislation:** SB 1778 & HB 1141

**Description:** Legislators lowered the Business rent tax from 5.8% to 5.7% in 2018. In 2019, it was cut to 5.5%. SB 1778 would lower the business rent tax to 5% which would save businesses \$8.3 Million.

**Current Status:** No action on either bill.

### **Item: Support** Communications Services Tax Cut

**Legislation:** SB 1174 & HB 701

**Description:** This legislation would set the maximum communications services tax for charter counties and municipalities at 5% beginning on September 1, followed by a drop to 4% at the beginning of 2022. Noncharter counties, the rate would be 2% beginning on January 1, 2022.

**Current Status:** SB 1174 passed Innovation, Industry and Technology Committee. No action on HB 701. Tax cut could be rolled into tax-package.

### **Item: Support** E-fairness

**Legislation:** SB 126 & HB 159

**Description:** This legislation would level the playing field between online retailers and brick-and-mortar businesses by making sure they both collect and remit sales tax.

**Current Status:** SB 126 passed Commerce and Tourism Committee. No action on HB 159.

### **Item: Oppose** E-Verify Mandate

**Legislation:** SB 664 // SB 1822 & HB 1265

**Description:** SB 664 mandates all employers register with and use E-Verify. E-Verify would place significant costs on business for little gain. E-Verify is far from perfect and consistently flags lawful employees. The compliance costs, and penalties associated with it, should not be based on this flawed system. SB 1822 & HB 1265 only requires government entities to use E-Verify.

**Current Status:** SB 664 was amended & passed Judiciary Committee. SB 1822 & HB 1265 no action

### **Item: Support** Film Florida Rebates

**Legislation:** SB 530 & HB 497

**Description:** States surrounding Florida offer incentives for filming in their state. Florida is losing films and the economic benefits associated with them. SB 350 & HB 497 would allow the Department of Economic Opportunity to provide rebates to help lure films to our state.

**Current Status:** SB 530 Passed Commerce & Tourism Committee. HB 497 no action.

**Item: Oppose Tourist Development Tax Expanded Use**

**Legislation:** SB 334 & No companion bill

**Description:** SB 334 would expand the use of the Tourist Development Tax for film incentives. Though we support film incentives, not through this funding mechanism. We support the funding mechanism outlines in SB 350 & HB 497.

**Current Status:** SB 334 passed Community Affairs Committee.

**Item: Support Water Quality Enhancement (Sewage Discharge Fees)**

**Legislation:** SB 1450 & HB 1091

**Description:** Local governments have illegally dumped three billion gallons of sewage into Florida's waterways over the past ten years; approximately 100 million in the past year alone. The state can spend billions trying to clean up our polluted waterways, but if local governments continue to pollute, our water quality will still suffer. SB 1450 & HB 1091 increases fines for local governments who continue to illegally dump untreated sewage into our waterways.

**Current Status:** SB 1450 passed Environment and Natural Resources. No action on House Bill.

**Item: Support Water Quality Enhancement (Prohibit Injection Wells)**

**Legislation:** SB 454 & No related bill

**Description:** Instead of fully treating their wastewater, some local governments want to just simply inject sewage into the ground. This can be dangerous due to the proximity to our aquifers and waterways. SB 454 would prohibit the construction of new deep injection wells or the expansion of existing wells; requires current ocean outfall and deep well injection permit holders to install a functioning reuse system within the utility's service area by specified dates; prohibits the discharge of domestic wastewater through ocean outfalls and deep injection wells after specified dates.

**Current Status:** No action.

**Item: Monitoring Vacation Rentals**

**Legislation:** SB 1128 & HB 1011

**Description:** Vacation rentals, either through property management companies or on website platforms, should be collecting and remitting taxes as well as regulated to ensure the health and safety of guests. SB 1450 & HB 1091 would create statewide framework that would level the playing field for all vacation rentals.

**Current Status:** SB 1128 Passed Innovation, Industry & Technology Committee and Commerce & Tourism Committee. HB 1011 no action.

## **2020 Legislation to Monitor**

### **Business Friendly**

- Bad Faith Reform (SB 924) – Brandes
- Property Insurance Reform (SB 914) – Brandes
- Reduce Communications Tax (SB 1174 & HB 701)
- Prohibit local gov from passing regulation interfering with conditions of employment (SB 1126 & HB 305)

### **Anti-Business**

- Adds hair style to type of discrimination (SB 566 & HB 761)
- Adds height & Weight to type of discrimination (SB 644 & HB 635)
- Increases paid leave to 3 months (SB 1194 & HB 889)
- \$15 Minimum Wage (SB 456 & HB 691)
- Allows local gov to set minimum wage (SB 1520 & HB 6065)
- Ban plastic straws and bags (SB 40 & No House Bill)